

contacts;

AH  
Conced.

a firing module housing including detonator electronics therein and electrical output contacts mateable with the input contacts of the detonator for detonating the detonator; and

wherein the detonator holder is configured to be quickly and easily separable from the firing module housing to de-mate the input contacts of the detonator with respect to the electrical output contacts of the detonator electronics thereby disarming the firing module without damaging it or any of its components.

#### REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 10 under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,969,286 to Ward et al and rejects claims 2, 6, 8, and 9 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,831,203 to Ewick.

The applicants submit herewith new claim 11 and a 37 CFR 1.131 affidavit which swears back of U.S. Patent No. 5,969,236 to Ward et al. Because this affidavit overcomes the cited patent, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.